

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 YAOUND 04168 221510Z

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3248

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 4168

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PFOR, OVIP, UNGA, CM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S ATTENDANCE AT UNGA

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 4142 (B) YAOUNDE 4127 (C) YAOUNDE 4120

(D) YAOUNDE 4025 (E) STATE 223096

1. SUMMARY: I RECOMMEND THAT IF PRESIDENT AHIDJO BRINGS U
POSSIBILITY OF VISIT UNGA DURING CURRENT SESSION AT TIME OF
CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION CEREMONY I INDICATE THAT WORKING WITHIN
THE GIVEN TIME CONSTRAINTS EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ATTEMPT
ARRANGE MEETING BETWEEN HIM AND PRESIDENT CARTER. END SUMMARY

2. REFTELS A AND B INDICATE THAT AT LEAST ONE GURC SENIOR OFFICIAL
DOES NOT BELIEVE OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS ARE COMPETENT EXPRESS VIEW
BEYOND REPRESENTING POSITION OF THEIR OWN COUNTRY. GABONESE
AND OAU PRESIDENT BONGO (REFTEL A) AND NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE
OBASANJO (REFTEL B) WERE SPECIFICALLY RULED OUT FROM ACTING
AS SPOKESMEN FOR AFRICA. IN HIS OPINION, VIEWS OF ALL AFRICAN
STATES MUST BE CONSIDERED IN OUR DETERMINATION OF FUTURE
COURSES OF ACTION. PRESIDENT AHIDJO REPRESENTS A STABLE, MODERATE
AFRICAN LEADER WHO LEANS TOWARDS THE WEST WHILE GUARDING
CAREFULLY AGAINST UNDULY TARNISHING HIS THIRD WORLD CREDENTIALS.
HE SUPPORTS OUR EFFORTS TO FIND PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS SOUTH
AFRICAN PROBLEMS. CAMEROON OCCUPIES INTERNATIONAL POSITION
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WHICH TRANSCENDS RELATIVELY MODEST POPULATION AND PRESENT
AGRARIAN ECONOMY. COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF CRUDE OIL SHOULD
BEGIN BEDORE YEAR'S END. AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF CIEC, A LEADER IN
UDEAC, AND A MEMBER OF VARIOUS OAU RECONCILIATION COMMITTEES,
CAMEROONIANS ARE SECRETARY GENERAL OF OAU, CHAIRMAN OF LOS
COMMITTEE I AND OCCUPY RELATIVELY IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN MANY
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FORA.

3. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, FORMER DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE HAS BEEN THE ONLY HIGH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TO VISIT THIS COUNTRY. THEREFORE, IF PRESIDENT AHIDJO INDICATES THAT HE HAS MADE PLANS TO VISIT UNGA OR EVEN IF HE INDICATES THAT HE WILL VISIT IF AN APPOINTMENT CAN BE ARRANGED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, I WOULD HOPE THAT WITHIN THE GIVEN TIME CONSTRAINTS AND OTHER PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES, TIME MIGHT BE FOUND FOR THE TWO PRESIDENTS TO MEET, ESPECIALLY SINCE HIS TWO NEIGHBORING CHIEFS OF STATE WILL HAVE MET PRESIDENT CARTER THIS YEAR.

4. IF DEPARTMENT IS AGREEABLE TO THIS PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION, THEN ASSUMING PRESIDENT AHIDJO RAISES THE QUESTION, I SHALL INDICATE OUR WILLINGNESS TO ATTEMPT ARRANGE MEETING. I SHALL ALSO INFORM HIM OF THE POSSIBILITY OF HONORARY DEGREE FROM SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY WHOSE PRESIDENT IS FORMER AMBASSADOR THOMAS MELADY (PROPOSED TO ME PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE - SEE REFTTEL B). I DO NOT INTEND, OF COURSE, VOLUNTARILY TO RAISE THE SUBJECT OF A PRESIDENTIAL MEETING, BUT MERELY TO BE PREPARED TO RESPOND AS FAVORABLY AS POSSIBLE SHOULD PRESIDENT AHIDJO INITIATE A CONVERSATION ON THIS POINT (REFTEL C).

5. I UNDERSTAND THAT PRESIDENT AHIDJO IS EXPECTED TO RETURN YAOUNDE FROM GAROUA TOMORROW, SEPTEMBER 23, SO, IN SPITE OF NO FURTHER WORD FROM PROTOCOL, I WOULD EXPECT THAT CREDENTIALS
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PRESENTATION WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE SOMETIME NEXT WEEK.
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